

TOWN OF TRURO  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007

The Truro Board of Selectmen met for their weekly session on Tuesday, February 6, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Truro Town Hall, 24 Town Hall Road, Truro. In attendance were: Chairman Alfred Gaechter, Vice-Chairman Gary Palmer, Clerk Christopher R. Lucy, Curtis Hartman, Jan Worthington, Town Administrator Pamela Nolan, Administrative Secretary Julie DuPree, Assistant Town Administrator Charleen Greenhalgh, Martha Nagy, Susan Kadar, Gary Delius, Deb Camuso, Carol Nickerson, Derek Burritt of the Banner, and Steve Desroche of the Cape Codder.

Mr. Gaechter convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes: Mr. Palmer moved to approve the minutes of the regular sessions of January 30, 2007 as written. Mr. Hartman seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.**

**Public Comment:** Bob Weinstein brought to the Board's attention an issue he is concerned with. This is a proposed development in the CCNS. He told them he used to have a working relationship with this developer, and he has sent a letter of disclosure to the Town Clerk and the BOS. He provided the Board with an information packet on his concerns. He feels the CCNS is skirting its responsibility under its enabling legislation, and they use a lack of funding as an excuse. He feels that neither the BOS nor the CCNS should skirt their responsibility and allow this project to go forward. This project violates the Federal standards and our own zoning bylaws (Section 30.3). He asked that the BOS read the information and bring it to the attention of the Building Inspector. Mr. Gaechter told Mr. Weinstein that he and the Town Administrator met recently with Supt. Price and he has asked the Planning Board Chair to schedule a special time for the CCNS to attend and discuss these issues. Mr. Hartman clarified that the CCNS was notified of Planning Board meetings each time they were an abutter and they never came.

**Website update:** Mr. Delius told the Board that he has been working with a designer. He presented them with several different designs. He told them that when a format has been chosen, the new website could be online in six weeks. Mr. Hartman asked if he had a strategy to keep it current. Mr. Delius told him that with the new home page, it would be no trouble to do if he gets the information to post. Mr. Gaechter directed him to send out a notice to all the other Boards asking for their input as to what should be on the website. Mr. Palmer asked if 2-5 pages of information could be printed off line and distributed as a newsletter. Mr. Delius said it was possible, but it was a different layout and so it wouldn't print out the same. But there was no reason why it couldn't be published in a PDF file and distributed. Mr. Hartman encouraged him to take a broader sense of his mandate, viewing the news page as an electronic broadsheet. As to the links page, he should think broader as to what to link to, including, for example, the Truro Non-resident Taxpayers and Dexter Keezer websites. News needs to be up so that people know what is going on. Mr. Delius said that if you give him the information, he will put it up there. He said that we will have RSS feed capability and keyword search capability. Mr. Gaechter asked if people would be able to sign up for notification of things like meeting notices. Mr. Delius said that would be more complicated, but it can be done; you could use the RSS format for that. Mr. Hartman asked if additional staff expenditure would be needed to keep up the site. Mr. Delius said not at this time. Mr. Gaechter asked if he needed help with the development.

Mr. Delius said it will be done outside and the funding is included in his budget. Mr. Hartman said he wants a website that is a new Town Hall and pushes information out. Mr. Delius said that this website has the potential to make a trip to Town Hall completely unnecessary. Mr. Lucy wondered how quickly he can get notification up. Mr. Delius said it takes five minutes once he gets something in word format. Mr. Gaechter asked if there were someone else in Town Hall who could be trained for the times when he is not at Town Hall. Mr. Delius said yes; the BOS Secretary already updates the calendar.

**ATM Warrant closing: Mr. Gaechter moved to close the Warrant effective February 6, 2007. Mr. Lucy seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.** Ms. Nolan told the Board that it is a short Warrant this year; there are only twenty or so articles.

**Cape Cod Commission reappointment request:** Ms. Kadar requested that the BOS reappoint her to be Truro's representative to the Cape Cod Commission; her term will expire this April. Mr. Gaechter said the BOS will advertise this position as a matter of form.

**Affordable Accessory Dwelling Unit Bylaw:** The Board discussed whether to have the Planning Board's public hearing on this proposed bylaw as part of the BOS meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. He thought they should keep the BOS agenda short for that meeting and hold the public hearing after that, rather than to have the hearing earlier. The Board concurred. Ms. Nolan was to so inform Mr. Worthington. **Mr. Gaechter moved to refer the draft bylaw back to the Planning Board for a public hearing. Mr. Hartman seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.**

**Dog Complaint hearing procedure:** Ms. Nolan informed the Board that the investigation into this complaint is on-going. The Animal Control Officer is investigating with input from the Health Agent. The owner of the dog should have a two week notice to appear at a hearing. Town Counsel has advised that it doesn't matter if the BOS have a procedure, just that they consider the merits of each side equally. Mr. Gaechter said that he understands the BOS do not need to conduct the hearing, but can delegate it to another, such as the Animal Control Officer. He asked his colleagues if they should delegate this, and hold their own hearing only if there is an appeal of the decision. The consensus was to give the responsibility to the Animal Control Officer. **Mr. Gaechter moved to approve a procedure in which the Animal Control Officer would be the person to conduct a hearing at the request of a citizen and that the BOS would serve in the case of an appeal. Mr. Hartman seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.** Mr. Palmer wanted to see a protocol in place. Ms. Nolan was directed to put one together in two weeks.

**Contract approval:** Ms. Nolan told the Board that this contract, requested by the Recreation Commission, has been reviewed by Town Counsel and she recommended that they approve it. **Mr. Palmer moved to approve the contract with Weston and Sampson Engineers, Inc. Mr. Gaechter seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.**

**Request for highway sign:** The Board had received a request from the MA Motorcycle Association to put a sign in a high traffic area which would remind motorists that they share the

road with motorcycles. This request was also sent to Chief Thomas. A site has been selected for the sign. **Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the request for sign placement. Mr. Palmer seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.**

**Comcast Contract renewal:** Ms. Nolan told the Board that she, Mr. Delius, and the members of the Cable Advisory Committee will begin to try to get the neighboring towns to renegotiate with us. She would like the CAC to come in to the BOS and discuss what they want. Mr. Hartman said that they are about six months from having a public hearing with CAC.

**Town Administrator's Report: (action items)**

- Reported that Fred Simonin has resigned from the FinCom. Mr. Gaechter directed the Town Administrator to speak to the Town Moderator regarding advertising this vacancy. **Mr. Gaechter moved to accept the resignation with regret and that a letter of appreciation is sent to Mr. Simonin. Mr. Lucy seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.**
- Received a request from the Citizens for Homeowners Insurance Reform that the BOS review their mission statement and give them support. They would like to come before the BOS and ask for their support. Mr. Hartman said that he didn't know enough about the group to endorse them, but he does support their mission. Ms. Nolan was directed to draft something stating that the BOS support the mission, and also what steps the BOS have already taken.
- Reported that the ConsCom has approved the demolition of the town garage at Grace Square. **Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize the demolition of the carpenter shop on Castle Road. Mr. Palmer seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.**
- Reported that she had someone drop by her office who would act as our expert on MESA. He charges \$85.00 per hour and has an extensive resume. He would negotiate with MESA on our behalf. She told the Board that MESA has said they will answer the town's 20 questions in writing, but they are not happy about coming to a meeting here. She would have this consultant look at a draft agreement of what they (MESA) are requiring of us regarding the Community Center project. Mr. Palmer said he would like to involve the legislators. Ms. Nolan said that Sarah Peake is taking up as her cause the holding of the public meeting. MESA wants three people (one representative from each regulatory board) to go meet with them there. Mr. Lucy wondered if the new Governor could take back the action of the former Governor which gave them all their authority. Mr. Palmer said that is why he wants the legislators involved. Mr. Gaechter wanted to wait and see what their answers are if they come in a reasonable time. Mr. Palmer suggested that a formal letter pressing for this meeting should be sent to Rep. Peake. Ms. Nolan is to draft one. Mr. Gaechter said they should give MESA two weeks for answers and Ms. Nolan was to let them know this, and then put on the agenda. He asked how they could authorize spending \$200.00 for a consultant. Ms. Nolan said that her budget and their budget both contain consultant money. Ms. Worthington questioned the wisdom of hiring someone who just walked in the door and thought that they should look further. Mr. Hartman said this was time sensitive, and they would only be hiring him for a few hours of his time. He added that he would want a limited time on this. **Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize the Town Administrator to seek if there is another consultant and determine whether to hire this person or someone else for an analysis of the requirements of MESA in regard to the Community Center project for up to five hours. Mr. Hartman seconded it. Vote: 3-2, with**

**Ms. Worthington and Mr. Palmer opposed.**

- Reported that the Town Accountant requested that the BOS vote to allow ice and snow removal deficit spending if the situation arises. **Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize the deficit spending for ice and snow removal if it is necessary. Mr. Palmer seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.**

**Selectmen/Liaison Reports: (action items)**

**Hartman:** -Reported that the CAC is exploring broadcasting meetings on the website.

- The CPC met Saturday and amended their article for ATM to request \$60k which will fully fund the playground from this year's funds.

**Gaechter:** -Reported that he has still not been able to contact the USPS regarding the North Truro Post Office. He thought it was time to call Delahunt's office. Mr. Hartman agreed and thought they should also send a letter to this person's immediate supervisor. Mr. Gaechter will call.

**Palmer:** -Reported that the Herring River group is developing an MOU that would include Truro. This MOU will be an addendum to a conceptual restoration plan. This plan will be reviewed by the appropriate multi-member bodies of each participant. After review and modification, it will be sent to each BOS to review.

- Noted that the BOS needs to choose a cover photo and dedication for the ATR. The BOS had voted last year to use the winning photo of the Truro Treasures contest. He thought that it would be appropriate to dedicate the book to Betty Groom. **Mr. Palmer moved to use the winning photograph and dedicate the ATR to the memory of Betty Groom. Mr. Gaechter seconded it.** Ms. Worthington asked about dedicating it to Lloyd Rose. Mr. Palmer said that he had passed away in 2007 and so the dedication could be to him next year. **Vote: 5-0, unanimous.**

**Next week's agenda: Mr. Palmer moved to hold no meeting. Mr. Hartman seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.**

**At 7:22 p.m. Mr. Hartman moved to adjourn. Mr. Gaechter seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.**

---

Alfred Gaechter, Chairman

---

Gary Palmer, Vice-Chairman

---

Christopher R. Lucy, Clerk

---

Curtis Hartman

---

Janet W. Worthington  
Board of Selectmen  
Town of Truro